



PROGRESS REPORT NO. 41

TO: Helen Bottcher – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email

FROM: Marko Adzic – Teck American Incorporated (Teck)

DATE: December 10, 2009

FILE NO: 1-773180-000

RE: Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 41 Month Ending November 2009

Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of the activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

Homogenization of large-size fish (i.e., >30 centimeters) was temporarily delayed due to additional discussions regarding compositing, given the smaller than targeted quantity collected for some species within FSCAs (Fish Sample Collection Areas). Large fish were collected to support the human health risk assessment. A minimum of five values are needed to estimate the exposure point concentration using EPA Pro-UCL software. As discussed and agreed to on the 24th of November, by incorporating one modification for Lake Whitefish in FSCA No. 5 (i.e., 5 composites of 4 fish), the original compositing scheme will be followed whenever it meets the minimum of 5 samples. Homogenization of large fish for which samples do not meet the minimum will be delayed until the interim data is reviewed.

In consideration of this delay the status of homogenization activities are as follows: 1) burbot and kokanee have been completed; 2) smallmouth bass and walleye are ongoing; and 3) rainbow trout, largescale sucker, and lake whitefish (in that order) are scheduled for completion in December 2009. At this time, compositing activities associated with the small- and medium-sized fish have not started. Teck will continue to work with EPA in prioritizing and finalizing the small- and medium-size fish composites so as to meet the needs of both the ecological and the human health risk assessments. Validated fish tissue data for the large-size class are scheduled to be available in February 2010 and this will inform the plan for samples below the minimum required to estimate an exposure point concentration.

Beach sediment data collected in September 2009 is presently being validated and will be made available (i.e., compact discs – CDs) to EPA in December 2009. Laboratory

analyses on surface water samples are ongoing. It is anticipated that validated surface water data will be made available in January 2010.

The revised Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment (SLERA) was submitted on the 23rd of November. Review comments are pending for the draft plankton sampling plan (July 18, 2008), and the draft baseline ecological risk assessment work plan (July 23, 2009).

During the next several months, Teck will continue to work on developing technical deliverables that will facilitate the following 2010 field sampling efforts as outlined within the draft BERA work plan (e.g., surface soil sampling, and white sturgeon work based on EPA's level-of-effort paper).

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-892-2585.